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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:TU, US

SUBJECT: LETTER TO WASHINGTON POST ON THE GRECO-TURKISH DEADLOCK

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER ENTITLED "THE GRECO-TURKISH DEADLOCK" APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON POST OF DECEMBER 12. IT WAS WRITTEN BY AHMET ERSOY, PRESS COUNSELOR OF THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: IT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE TO FINALLY READ
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AN EDITORIAL IN YOUR DISTINGUISHED PAPER ON GRECO-TURKISH RELATIONS ("THE GREEK ELECTION, NOV. 23) THAT ADMITS IT CAN FIND NO QUICK-FIX SOLUTION. WE HAD PREDICTED THIS IMPASSE TWO YEARS AGO WHEN AN EMBARGO WAS FIRST INSTITUTED BY YOUR CONGRESS AGAINST AN ALLY NATION. AFTER ALL, AS TURKISH PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL RECENTLY STATED: "THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO THE PROBLEM, THE GREEK SIDE AND

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THE TURKISH SIDE. AND AS LONG AS THE GREEKS SEE THE UNITED STATES BEHIND THEM, WHY SHOULD THEY NEGOTIATE?"

TO SEE THE TRUTH IN THIS, ONE NEED ONLY COMPARE THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED. INITIALLY ENVISIONED BY THE LATE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, THE CURRENT GREEK-CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP STILL ESPOUSES HIS CONCEPT OF A "LONG STRUGGLE" TO THE BITTER END. AS FOR GREEK PRIME MINISTER CONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS, ON THE ONE HAND, HE STATES THAT TURKEY AND GREECE ARE "CONDEMNED" TO BE FRIENDS, AND YET ONE OF HIS MAJOR FOREIGN-POLICY GOALS, AS WRITTEN IN HIS RECENT PARTY ELECTION PLATFORM, IS TO ISOLATE TURKEY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE SAME GENTLEMEN ALSO STATED JUST RECENTLY THAT HE HAD TURKEY CORNERED AND WOULD SOON BRING IT DOWN TO ITS KNEES.

STILL, TURKEY AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ANY AND ALL DIFFERENCES. JUST THIS MONTH MY COUNTRY REPEATED ITS CALL FOR THE RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IT WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT A LASTING SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND IN A PACKAGE DEAL, COVERING ALL THE IMPORTANT ISSUES, INCLUDING TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS, THAT A FINAL BIZONAL SETTLEMENT MIGHT REQUIRE. HENCE, WHILE AGREEING WITH THE DEADLOCK APPRAISAL OF YOUR EDITORIAL, I TAKE EXCEPTION TO ITS CONCLUSIONS IN UNCLASSIFIED

TWO REGARDS.

FIRST, NO AMOUNT OF "UNFORESEEN OPPORTUNITIES" ARE GOING TO MAKE INROADS TOWARD REACHING SETTLEMENTS UNLESS ALL PARTIES FEEL THE NEED TO NEGOTIATE IN EARNEST. SINCE 1974, THE TURKISH SIDE HAS PRESENTED NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH VARIOUS CONCILIATORY GESTURES AIMED AT COMPROMISE. TO NAME JUST A FEW, THESE INITIATIVES INCLUDED OFFERING TO SET UP A JOINT TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT COULD HAVE BEEN THE CORNERSTONE OF AN EVENTUAL PARTNERSHIP BASED ON EQUALITY; THE JOINT OPERATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES, SUCH AS THE NICOSIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; JOINTLY OPENING THE PORT OF FAMAGUSTA TO INTERNATIONAL SEA TRAFFIC; WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW PERSONS AND GOODS ENTERING CYPRUS IN GREEK-CYPRIOT PORTS IN THE NORTH. INEVITABLY, ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN REJECTED. TODAY, GREECE HAS ARMED, OSTENSIBLY FOR SELF-DEFENSE, THE AEGEAN ISLANDS BORDERING TURKEY IN VIOLATION OF TWO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, AND USING AMERICAN ARMS. YET, HAS ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL EVEN CONSIDERED APPLYING PRESSURE TO RECTIFY THIS MOCKERY OF JUSTICE? WHAT INCENTIVE DOES THE OTHER SIDE HAVE TO REACH ANY SORT OF AN AGREEMENT?

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SECONDLY, "WAITING" DOES NOT "BEAT MAKING THINGS WORSE," AS YOUR EDITORIAL SUGGESTS. UNFORTUNATELY, EACH PASSING DAY THE TURKISH PEOPLE GROW EVER MORE DISILLUSIONED AS TO THE FAIRNESS OF THEIR PRESENT ALLY, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS CONTINUE TO STEADILY DETERIORATE. MOREOVER, AS YOUR EDITORIAL ATTESTS, THE SITUATION IS NOT VERY DIFFERENT SO FAR AS THE OTHER PARTIES ARE CONCERNED, EITHER. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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